

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-4, 6-20, and 22-28 are pending in this application.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-28 were previously pending.

Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9, 14, and 22 are currently amended.

No new claims are added.

Claims 5 and 21 are canceled.

Claims 1-4, 6-20, and 22-28 are pending.

Oath/Declaration

A new oath or declaration was requested due to lack of a signature of one of the inventors. However, the declaration was filed in two parts, one of the parts bearing two signatures and the other part bearing one signature. Thus, the application was filed with a proper declaration and the objection is overcome. The signature of each inventor on the declaration can be viewed on the PAIR system.

Claim Objections

Claim 21 was objected to as being a duplicate of claim 19. Claim 21 inadvertently duplicates claim 19, so Applicant requests that claim 21 be canceled.

Orientation to Subject Matter

Different computer platforms typically have different hardware specifications, such as the size of a display included in the platforms. For example, the use of automobile computers that provide a graphical user interface (GUI) to a user are becoming common. But automobile manufacturers typically desire to have a unique look to their automobiles, so a standard look and feel to a GUI is not desirable. As a result, a software application written for one make of automobile will not provide acceptable results on another make of automobile. (See specification, p. 1, lines 10-20).

Applicant describes systems and methods for scaling a graphical user interface so that the graphical user interface appears proportionally correct regardless of the resolution of the display on which the graphical user interface is rendered. A tiered sizing schema is also described that defines size constraints for display objects, thus ensuring fidelity of a graphical user interface when displayed on a target display. (See specification, p. 3, lines 14-20).

In one implementation, a schema defines size constraints for display objects. Any number of sizes may be defined in the schema and applications adhering to the schema will have display objects that are limited to the sizes in the schema. For example, a schema may define three sizes for display objects, such as a "small", "medium" and "large". This feature protects against display objects being distorted when displayed in a different resolution than that which they were designed. As a result, applications using a graphical user interface designed on a system having one resolution will look true to its design specifications when displayed on an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) display having a different resolution. (See specification, p. 4, lines 4-13).

An OEM may provide the look of the controls to be used in a particular environment. For example, if General Motors Co. installs computers in GM automobiles, it may want the controls to include a GM logo to better define a unique look for GM cars. In such an instance, the OEM (e.g., GM) and the application developer develop an understanding between them as to size constraints of display objects. Conforming to such an understanding assures that the specifications of the GUI written by the developer will be preserved in the OEM's display space. (See specification, p. 10, lines 16-23).

Applicant achieves such an understanding by establishing a schema of tiered sizing for display objects. (See specification, p. 10, lines 24-25) Use of the schema allows an OEM to design visual aspects of display objects with regard to the sizes defined by the schema. Since the OEM knows that a medium object is a certain fraction of a size of a display used in an OEM system, the OEM can design graphics, such as bitmaps, that conform to the size of display objects on the particular system to provide a rich visual interface. (See specification, p. 11, lines 16-20).

Rejection of the Claims

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,001,697 to Torres, filed February 10, 1988 ("Torres" or "the Torres reference"). Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,401 to Winer, filed February 10, 1988 ("Winer" or "the Winer reference").

Claim 7

Claim 7 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The amendment of claim 7 adds clarity and is not meant to narrow claim 7. No new matter is added.

Claim 7, as amended, defines a tiered sizing schema that includes:

- a first definition for a size of a first-sized display object, the first-sized display object being defined according to first fractions of a height and a width of a display;

- a second definition for a size of a second-sized display object, the second-sized display object being defined according to second fractions of the height and width of the display;

- wherein a received application program that produces a graphical user interface adhering to the tiered sizing schema only uses display objects having a size of the first-sized display object or the second-sized display object, and

- wherein the first-sized display objects or the second-sized display objects are assigned to the application program for display on different displays having different heights and widths.

The Torres reference, on the other hand, describes a method to automatically vary displayed object size with variations in window size (see, e.g., the title of the Torres reference). More specifically, Torres discloses a method to maintain all of the information that is originally displayed in a window on the display screen in an interactive information handling system, as the size of the window is decreased (see for example, the Torres abstract).

Claim 7 is allowable over Torres because the Torres reference does not show or disclose Applicant's schema of "a first definition for a size of a first-sized display object," "a second definition for a size of a second-sized display object," "wherein a received application program that produces a graphical user interface adhering to the tiered sizing schema only uses display objects having a size of the first-sized display object or the second-sized display object," and "wherein the

first-sized display objects or the second-sized display objects are assigned to the application program for display on different displays having different heights and widths.”

The Office cites object-sizing in Torres to support a rejection, but Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection is overcome by the clarifying amendment of claim 7. Hence, claim 7 should be allowable.

Claim 22

Claim 22 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The amendment of claim 22 adds clarity and is not meant to narrow claim 22. No new matter is added.

Claim 22, as amended, defines a system that includes:

an application that produces a graphical user interface usable on different displays having different height, width, resolution, and operating system platform characteristics, wherein the application defines one or more sizes of one or more display objects according to a fraction of a height and a fraction of a width of a display, such that the display objects display correctly on the different displays; and

a graphical user interface that allows selection of the one or more display objects to associate with the sizes and defines visual aspects of the one or more display objects.

The Winer reference discloses a system for designing dynamic layouts adaptable to various display screen sizes and resolutions. For a particular layout, associations are formed between objects in the layout and the edges of a display, so that if the dimensions of the display are changed, the relationships between the objects and the sides of the display remain proportionate.

The Winer reference does not disclose the system defined by claim 22. Specifically, the Winer reference does not disclose a system that includes an application that defines sizes of display objects "according to a fraction of a height and a fraction of a width of a display, such that the display objects display correctly on the different displays" and "a graphical user interface that allows selection of the one or more display objects to associate with the sizes." Thus, Applicants respectfully suggest that claim 22 is allowable over Winer because the Winer reference does not disclose Applicant's system.

The Office cites defining objects according to a percentage of a display in the Winer reference in support of a rejection, but Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejection is overcome by the clarifying amendment of claim 22. Hence, claim 22 should be allowable.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 23-28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Winer reference combined with the Torres reference.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The amendment of claim 1 adds clarity and is not meant to narrow the claim. No new matter is added.

Claim 1, as amended, defines a method that includes:

- establishing a tiered sizing schema that defines multiple size tiers for display objects;
- receiving an application program that: specifies one of the multiple size tiers to associate with a generic description of a display object to be selected, specifies a fraction of a height of a display as a

vertical location on the display, and specifies a fraction of a width of the display as a horizontal location on the display;

selecting the display object to associate with the generic description;

creating a display having an arbitrary height, an arbitrary width, an arbitrary resolution, and an arbitrary operating system platform; and

displaying the display object on the display at the specified size tier, at the specified fraction of the height, and at the specified fraction of the width.

The features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by a combination of Winer and Torres. The Winer reference does not teach or suggest, for example, “receiving an application program that: specifies one of the multiple size tiers to associate with a generic description of a display object to be selected, specifies a fraction of a height of a display as a vertical location on the display, and specifies a fraction of a width of the display as a horizontal location on the display,” and “selecting the display object to associate with the generic description,” and also does not teach or suggest “creating a display having an arbitrary height, an arbitrary width, an arbitrary resolution, and an arbitrary operating system platform,” and “displaying the display object on the display at the specified size tier, at the specified fraction of the height, and at the specified fraction of the width.”

The Torres reference does not add anything to the missing teaching. Torres too, fails to teach or suggest Applicant's features, hence the combination of these two references fail.

Applicant suggests, therefore, that claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of Winer and Torres.

Claims 2-6

Applicants request that claim 5 be canceled without prejudice. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 2-4 and 6 are also patentable. Dependent claims contain the language of the claims from which they depend. Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-4 and 6 are also allowable.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is dependent on claim 7, which was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Torres. Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection has been overcome, as laid out above.

Likewise, the Torres reference does not teach or suggest Applicant's schema of "a first definition for a size of a first-sized display object," "a second definition for a size of a second-sized display object," "wherein a received application program that produces a graphical user interface adhering to the tiered sizing schema only uses display objects having a size of the first-sized display object or the second-sized display object," and "wherein the first-sized display objects or the second-sized display objects are assigned to the application program for display on different displays having different heights and widths."

The Winer reference does not add anything to the missing teaching of Torres. Winer too, fails to teach or suggest Applicant's features, hence the combination of these two references fail.

For at least these reasons described for claim 7, Applicant submits that claim 8 is also patentable. Dependent claims contain the language of the claims from which they depend. Therefore, claim 8 is also allowable.

Claim 9

Claim 9 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The amendment of claim 9 adds clarity and is not meant to narrow the claim. No new matter is added.

Claim 9, as amended, defines a computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions that when executed on a computing device perform:

- defining a first bound of a display object to be selected and displayed on a display according to a fraction of a height of the display and a fraction of a width of the display;

- defining a second bound of the display object according to a fraction of the height and width of the display;

- defining a size for the display object from multiple sizes defined by a tiered sizing schema for display object sizes;

- receiving an application program that specifies the first bound, the second bound, and the size;

- selecting a display object to associate with the first bound, the second, bound, and the size; and

- displaying the display object on different displays having different height, width, resolution, and operating system platform characteristics.

The features of claim 9 are not taught or suggested by a combination of Winer and Torres. The Winer reference does not teach or suggest, for example, “receiving an application program that specifies the first bound, the second bound, and the size,” “selecting a display object to associate with the first bound, the second, bound, and the size,” and “displaying the display object on different displays.”

The Torres reference does not add anything to the missing teaching. Torres too, fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s features, hence the combination of these two references fail.

Applicant suggests, therefore, that claim 9 is patentable over the cited combination of Winer and Torres.

Claims 10-13

For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 9, Applicant submits that claims 10-13 are also patentable. Dependent claims contain the language of the claims from which they depend. Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9. Therefore, claims 10-13 are also allowable.

Claim 14

Claim 14 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The amendment of claim 14 adds clarity and is not meant to narrow the claim. No new matter is added.

Claim 14, as amended, defines a method that includes:

- defining visual aspects of a graphical user interface to render on a display, the graphical user interface containing at least one description of a display object to be selected;
- receiving size and location information regarding the display object from an application that utilizes the graphical user interface; and
- selecting the display object,

wherein the size and location of the display object are defined in accordance with a tiered sizing schema.

The features of claim 14 are not taught or suggested by a combination of Winer and Torres. The Winer reference does not teach or suggest, for example, "defining visual aspects of a graphical user interface to render on a display, the graphical user interface containing at least one description of a display object to be selected," "receiving size and location information regarding the display object

from an application that utilizes the graphical user interface,” and “selecting the display object, wherein the size and location of the display object are defined in accordance with a tiered sizing schema.”

Further, the Torres reference does not add anything to the missing teaching. Torres too, fails to teach or suggest Applicant’s features, hence the combination of these two references fail.

Applicant suggests, therefore, that claim 14 is patentable over the cited combination of Winer and Torres.

Claims 15-21

Applicant requests that claim 21 be canceled, as described earlier above. For at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 14, Applicant submits that claims 15-20 are also patentable. Dependent claims contain the language of the claims from which they depend. Claims 15-20 depend from claim 14. Therefore, claims 15-20 are also allowable.

Claims 23-28

Claims 23-28 are dependent on claim 22, which was rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Winer. Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 USC § 102(b) rejection has been overcome, as laid out above.

Likewise, the Winer reference does not teach or suggest Applicant’s system including an application that defines sizes of display objects “according to a fraction of a height and a fraction of a width of a display, such that the display objects display correctly on the different displays” and “a graphical user interface that allows selection of the one or more display objects to associate with the sizes.”

The Torres reference does not add anything to the missing teaching of Winer. Torres too, fails to teach or suggest Applicant's features, hence the combination of these two references fail.

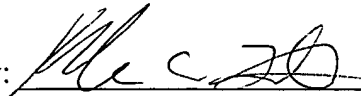
For at least these reasons described for claim 22, Applicant submits that claims 23-28 are also patentable. Dependent claims contain the language of the claims from which they depend. Therefore, claims 23-28 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully suggests that claims 1-4, 6-20, and 22-28 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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